

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A method for producing clean energy from coal comprising:

feeding coal into a chamber which is sealed to the atmosphere and which

possesses a charging end and a discharging end;

moving the coal within said chamber towards the discharging end;

injecting oxygen which is essentially pure in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal while maintaining a pressurized reducing atmosphere to:

(i) cause the release of thermal energy to devolatilize the coal; and

(ii) yield a pressurized hydrogen rich raw gas containing coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons together with a hot char;

cracking the coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons contained in the hydrogen rich raw gas to make a hydrogen rich cracked gas which after desulfurization becomes a clean hydrogen rich synthesis gas;

directing the hot char to a gasifier which is sealed to the atmosphere;

gasifying the hot char with an oxidant in said gasifier to yield a raw second gas and a molten slag;

flowing the raw second gas together with the molten slag through a common port out of said gasifier to maintain said port open for the free flow of the raw second gas and the molten slag;

separating the raw second gas from the molten slag after exiting from said common port;

directing the raw second gas to a cleanup system to clean it and thus yield a clean second gas; and

quenching the molten slag to convert it to a non-leaching solid.

Claim 2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the synthesizing of said clean hydrogen rich synthesis gas into a liquid fuel or chemical.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the utilizing of said clean second gas for the generation of electric power.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 including the using of preheated air to gasify the hot char.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 including the using of oxygen enriched air to gasify the hot char.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of gasifying the hot char with an oxidant in said gasifier comprises the injection of the oxidant in a downdraft mode.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 8 further comprising the injection of the oxidant at a plurality of penetrations into said gasifier.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of compacting the coal against the wall of the chamber at the charging end to such an extent as to densify the coal to essentially make it impervious to gas flow at the charging end in order to force pressurized raw gases generated during the heating of the coal to flow out of the discharging end of said chamber.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of flowing the raw second gas together with the molten slag through a common port of said gasifier includes the step of providing supplementary thermal energy to prevent solidification of the molten slag in said port.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 11 includes the step of providing oxidant injection means to combust a portion of said raw second gas to create said supplementary thermal energy.

Claim 13. (Original) The method set forth in claim 11 wherein said supplementary thermal energy is derived from electric induction means.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of flowing the raw second gas together with the molten slag through a common port out of said gasifier includes the collecting of the molten slag in a receiver to serve as a molten bath.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 14 further comprising the step of directing the raw second gas together with the molten slag to the

receiver in a submerged fashion to cause the raw second gas to bubble through said molten bath in order to separate the entrained slag from the raw second gas and to essentially scrub the second gas by making use of the molten slag in said receiver.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 15 further comprising the step of providing a gas exit port above the bath for the discharge of the scrubbed second gas.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 14 further comprising the step of providing a spillway for the molten slag to flow out of said receiver.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 17 further comprising the step of providing downstream of said spillway a water quenching chamber to cool the molten slag to a non-leaching solid.

Claim 19. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the method is conducted under pressure.

Claim 20. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of injecting oxygen which is essentially pure in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal is further characterized by the step of injecting the oxygen from a compartment located downstream of the discharging end of said chamber.

Claim 21. (Original) The method set forth in claim 20 further comprising a hot radiant zone disposed to said compartment to reflect intense thermal energy against the coal in the discharging end of said chamber to expedite devolatilization of the coal and crack coal distillates and hydrocarbons which are cancer causing.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 including circumferential heating of a coal mass from the direction of the wall of said chamber.

Claim 23. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of moving the coal within the chamber towards the discharging end is further characterized by moving the coal progressively with pauses in order to create successive new frontal faces of coal at the discharging end of said chamber for the efficient exposure of the coal to radiant heat.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 being further characterized by balancing the pressure between the step of injecting oxygen to combust a portion of the coal and the step of gasifying the char with an oxidant so as to essentially prevent the contamination of the hydrogen rich gas by the second gas.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 14 further comprising the step of heating the receiver.

Claim 26. (Original) The method set forth in claim 25 wherein the heating of the receiver is derived from electric induction means.

Claim 27. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the injection of oxygen which is essentially pure in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal at a plurality of points to more efficiently combust coal while maintaining a reducing atmosphere.

Claim 28. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein an oxidant is added to raise the temperature of the hydrogen rich cracked gas prior to its desulfurization.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein an oxidant is added to raise the temperature of the second gas prior to its desulfurization.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 28 wherein the desulfurization occurs in a cleanup system which is regenerative.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 29 wherein the desulfurization occurs in a cleanup system which is regenerative.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the tapering of the reactor chamber in such a way as to diverge towards the discharging end to facilitate the movement of the coal within the chamber.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the passing of gases in flues provided to the chamber of said reactor.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the addition of biomass to the coal for processing them in unison.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the addition of waste to the coal for processing them in unison.

Claim 36. (Canceled)

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 43 wherein the coke is converted to activated carbon.

Claim 38. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1 being further characterized by balancing the pressures between the step of injecting oxygen and the step of gasifying the char, and the step of gasifying the char and the quenching of the molten slag in order to control the various flows of the gases in the process.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) A method for producing clean energy from coal comprising:

feeding coal into a chamber which is sealed to the atmosphere and which possesses a charging end and a discharging end;

moving the coal within said chamber towards the discharging end;

injecting gas comprising oxygen in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal while maintaining a pressurized reducing atmosphere to:

- (i) cause the release of thermal energy to devolatilize the coal; and
- (ii) yield a pressurized ~~hydrogen-rich~~ raw gas containing coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons together with a hot char;

directing the pressurized ~~hydrogen-rich~~ raw gas in such a way as to emerge from the discharging end of said chamber;

cracking the coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons contained in the ~~hydrogen-rich~~ raw gas to make a first ~~hydrogen-rich~~ cracked gas;

directing the hot char to a slagging gasifier which is sealed to the atmosphere and gasifying same to make a second gas and a molten slag;

removing said slag from the system; and

cleaning said first gas and said second gas to provide clean gases for useful applications.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the hot char is gasified with essentially pure oxygen and steam in order to make a hydrogen rich raw gas from the char which, after cleanup, a clean synthesis gas is obtained which can be synthesized into a hydrogen rich gaseous or liquid fuel.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein the hot char is gasified with air to yield a raw fuel gas which after cleanup yields a clean fuel gas suitable for combustion with low NO_x formation.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 39 further comprising the injection of steam with said oxygen.

Claim 43. (Currently amended) A method for producing clean energy from coal comprising:

feeding coal into a chamber which is sealed to the atmosphere and which possesses a charging end and a discharging end;

moving the coal within said chamber towards the discharging end;

injecting gas comprising oxygen which is essentially pure in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal while maintaining a pressurized reducing atmosphere to:

- (i) cause the release of thermal energy to devolatilize the coal;
and
- (ii) yield a pressurized ~~hydrogen rich~~ raw gas containing coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons together with a hot coke;

cracking the coal-derived cancer causing distillates and hydrocarbons contained in the ~~hydrogen rich~~ raw gas to make a ~~hydrogen rich~~ cracked gas which after desulfurization becomes a clean ~~hydrogen rich synthesis~~ gas;

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separating the hydrogen-rich cracked gas from the coke to yield metallurgical
coke useable in the field of metallurgy.